



UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
United States Patent and Trademark Office
Address: COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450
www.uspto.gov

APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/630,905	07/31/2003	John J. Donahue	011684.00014	9609
22907 7590 01/09/2008 BANNER & WITCOFF, LTD. 1100 13th STREET, N.W. SUITE 1200 WASHINGTON, DC 20005-4051			EXAMINER SINGH, RACHNA	
			ART UNIT 2176	PAPER NUMBER
			MAIL DATE 01/09/2008	DELIVERY MODE PAPER

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/630,905

Applicant(s)

DONAHUE, JOHN J.

Examiner

Rachna Singh

Art Unit

2176

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 26 October 2007.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-38 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-38 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 31 July 2003 is/are: a) ☒ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
- Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
- Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
- ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 - ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 - ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413) |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application |
| Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____ | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

DETAILED ACTION

1. This action is responsive to communications: A request for continued examination under 37 CFR 1.114, including the fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(e), was filed in this application after final rejection. Since this application is eligible for continued examination under 37 CFR 1.114, and the fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(e) has been timely paid, the finality of the previous Office action has been withdrawn pursuant to 37 CFR 1.114. Applicant's submission filed on 10/26/07 has been entered.

2. Claims 1-38 are pending. Claims 1, 20, 27, 31, and 33 are independent claims. Claims 1, 4, 6-17, 20, 27, and 31-33 have been amended.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

5. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

6. Claims 1-3, 5-6, 10-11, 13-14, 17, 20, 31, 34, 36, and 38 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Teng, US 2002/0152254 A1, 10/17/02 (filed 11/30/01, provisional filed on 12/22/00).

Art Unit: 2176

*Regarding claim 1, Teng discloses a template based workflow definition in which a template which can be a text document is used to define a workflow which meets the limitation, a **computer-assisted process for converting a displayed contract text document into a workflow process.** See page 1, paragraph [0014] and page 15, paragraph [0187].* Examiner note: Regarding “contract text document” Teng teaches organizations and businesses require various pre-defined business methods to carry out various tasks that are commonly used in their business practices. In order to implement various business methods, workflows have been implemented to automate those business methods. This includes transaction negotiations and contracts as it was a commonly used business task utilized by organizations. See page 1, paragraph [0010]-[0015].

Teng teaches the template can be created using a word processor (i.e. text document). The template defines a set of parameters for actions available to various workflow types to create a customized workflow. See page 1, paragraphs [0014]-[0015]. Specifically, Teng teaches a template is created and stored using a word processor. Teng teaches the systems reads the templates and determines which actions can be added to a GUI. The system then receives a selection of the attributes and types from the user via the GUI which results in a workflow definition which is stored for later use. Compare with, ***detecting a plurality of distinct text portions of the displayed contract text document and for each of the plurality of distinct text portions, analyzing the text portion of the document to identify at least one***

corresponding user-selected workflow process parameter. See page 1, paragraph [0014] and page 15, paragraphs [0187]-[0193].

Teng teaches the actions selected by the user in the XML document are added to a Graphical User Interface. The appropriate attributes and types of attributes are added to the GUI based on the template definition. The GUI is used to represent the flow of the workflow and any subflows represented by the XML document and results in a workflow definition that can be used to participate in or to start a workflow which meets the limitation, ***storing each text portion with corresponding user-selectable workflow process parameters into a data structure representing an ordering of information to be elicited when the workflow process is executed and executing a computer-based contract negotiation workflow process using the data structure as a template to drive the workflow process.*** See page 15, paragraphs [0187]-[0195].

Teng does not expressly teach ***user-selected text portions of a document.*** It was well known in the art at the time of the invention to select a portion of a document. Teng teaches selecting an entire document for conversion into a data structure. It would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to substitute the known method of selecting a portion of a document with Teng's method of selecting the entire document in order to achieve the predictable result of selecting a portion of the document for conversion into a data structure.

Regarding claim 2, Teng teaches the workflow attributes and parameters defined in the template define the steps of a workflow process. The template is an XML document that defines a set of parameters for each of the actions available to that particular workflow type. See page 14, paragraph [0184] and page 15. Actions of the workflow are executed in the order they appear.

Regarding claim 3, Teng teaches the workflow attributes and parameters defined in the template define the steps of a workflow process. The template is an XML document that defines a set of parameters for each of the actions available to that particular workflow type. See page 14, paragraph [0184] and page 15. Actions of the workflow are executed in the order they appear.

Regarding claim 5, Teng teaches organizations and businesses require various pre-defined business methods to carry out various tasks that are commonly used in their business practices. In order to implement various business methods, workflows have been implemented to automate those business methods. This includes transaction negotiation as it was a commonly used business task utilized by organizations. See page 1, paragraph [0010]-[0015].

Regarding claim 6, Teng teaches a user fully defines the workflow process using a template which can include the modification of a label used to designate a phase. See page 14, paragraph [0184]

Regarding claim 10, Teng teaches a user fully defines the workflow process using a template which can include the specification of a placeholder. See page 14, paragraph [0184].

Regarding claim 11, Teng teaches a user can provide the parameters that define how workflows are created. A user controls and defines the workflow process which can include re-ordering a previously specified workflow parameter. See page 14, paragraph [0184] and page 15.

Regarding claim 13, Teng teaches the template file is an XML document that defines a set of parameters for each of the actions available to the particular workflow. See page 14, paragraph [0184].

Regarding claim 14, Teng teaches generating a GUI from the template from which the workflow process and subflows are executed. See pages 14-15.

Regarding claim 17, Teng teaches a user defines the workflow process parameters in the template. See page 14, paragraph [0184].

Regarding claim 20, Teng discloses a template based workflow definition in which a template which can be a text document is used to define a workflow which

meets the limitation, **a computer-assisted process of reverse engineering a contract text document into a workflow process**. See page 1, paragraph [0014] and page 15, paragraph [0187].

Examiner note: Regarding "contract text document" Teng teaches organizations and businesses require various pre-defined business methods to carry out various tasks that are commonly used in their business practices. In order to implement various business methods, workflows have been implemented to automate those business methods. This includes transaction negotiations and contracts as it was a commonly used business task utilized by organizations. See page 1, paragraph [0010]-[0015].

Teng teaches the template can be created using a word processor (i.e. text document). The template defines a set of parameters for actions available to various workflow types to create a customized workflow. See page 1, paragraphs [0014]-[0015]. Teng teaches a user creates an XML document using a word processor to define a workflow process. A word processor provides editing tools allowing the user to create and tag documents with workflow process parameters. See page 14, paragraph [0184] and the table showing an XML document comprising tags inputted from a user. Teng teaches the systems reads the templates and determines which actions can be added to a GUI. The system then receives a selection of the attributes and types from the user which is used to form a GUI which meets the limitation, **displaying the contract text document on a computer screen; receiving user input from editing tools superimposed over the contract text document, wherein the editing tools permit the user to tag the document with associated workflow process**

Art Unit: 2176

parameters based on portions of the document. See page 15, paragraphs [0187]-[0193].

Teng teaches the actions selected by the user in the XML document are added to a Graphical User Interface. The appropriate attributes and types of attributes are added to the GUI based on the template definition. The GUI is used to represent the flow of the workflow and any subflows represented by the XML document and results in a workflow definition that can be stored and later used to participate in or to start a workflow which meets the limitation, ***generating and storing a data structure as a template for driving the workflow process from the tagged document***. See page 15, paragraphs [0187]-[0195].

Teng does not expressly teach ***user-selected text portions of a document***. It was well known in the art at the time of the invention to select a portion of a document. Teng teaches selecting an entire document for conversion into a data structure. It would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to substitute the known method of selecting a portion of a document with Teng's method of selecting the entire document in order to achieve the predictable result of selecting a portion of the document for conversion into a data structure.

Regarding claim 31, claim 31 is drawn to the system comprising the means for carrying out the process steps of claim 1. Accordingly, claim 31 is rejected under the same rationale used in claim 1 above.

Regarding claim 34, Teng teaches organizations and businesses require various pre-defined business methods to carry out various tasks that are commonly used in their business practices. In order to implement various business methods, workflows have been implemented to automate those business methods. This includes transaction negotiation as it was a commonly used business task utilized by organizations. See page 1, paragraph [0010]-[0015].

Regarding claim 36, Teng teaches organizations and businesses require various pre-defined business methods to carry out various tasks that are commonly used in their business practices. In order to implement various business methods, workflows have been implemented to automate those business methods. This includes transaction negotiation as it was a commonly used business task utilized by organizations. See page 1, paragraph [0010]-[0015].

Regarding claim 38, Teng teaches a user fully defines the workflow process using a template which can include the specification of a placeholder. See page 14, paragraph [0184].

7. Claims 4, 7-9, 12, 15-16, 18, 21-30, 32-33, 35, and 37 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Teng, US 2002/0152254 A1, 10/17/02 (filed 11/30/01, provisional filed on 12/22/00) in view of Dahlin et al., US 2004/0122701 A1, 06/24/04 (filed 11/23/01).

Regarding claim 4, Teng does not expressly state the workflow parameters comprise questions; however, workflows generally comprise questions as disclosed by Dahlin. Dahlin discloses a workflow in which an interface is provided for asking a plurality of questions about a patient in order to arrive at a diagnosis. See abstract, page 4, paragraphs [0041]-[0044] and figures 13-16. It would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention that a workflow process of Teng would comprise questions to be asked because workflow processes often consist of workflow tasks to be performed and often require questions related to a condition to be asked in order to execute the next task and properly diagnose a problem. See pages 1-2 of Dahlin.

Regarding claim 7, Teng teaches the user specifies the parameters that define the workflow process; however, Teng does not expressly state that the user creates a question. Dahlin discloses a workflow in which an interface is provided for asking a plurality of questions about a patient in order to arrive at a diagnosis. See abstract, page 4, paragraphs [0041]-[0044] and figures 13-16. Dahlin teaches the interface provides a plurality of questions to be asked or entered about a patient. Entering a question about the patient is creating a question to be asked. See page 2, paragraph [0017] of Dahlin. It would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention that a workflow process of Teng would comprise questions to be asked because workflow processes often consist of workflow tasks to be performed

and often require questions related to a condition to be asked in order to execute the next task and properly diagnose a problem. See pages 1-2 of Dahlin.

Regarding claim 8, Teng does not expressly teach detecting user-selected valid responses for a question that will be asked during the workflow process; however Dahlin discloses a medical workflow system in which a GUI is used by a health care professional to answer a set of questions to arrive at a diagnosis. See page 4, paragraphs [0041]-[0044] and figures 13-16. It would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to incorporate Dahlin's system of valid answers to questions in the system of Teng because workflow processes often consist of workflow tasks to be performed and often require questions related to a condition to be asked in order to execute the next task and properly diagnose a problem. See pages 1-2 of Dahlin.

Regarding claim 9, Teng teaches defining a workflow and subflow processes. Teng does not teach the user selects dependencies among questions; however, workflows generally comprise questions that determine the next workflow task as disclosed by Dahlin. Dahlin discloses a workflow in which an interface is provided for asking a plurality of questions about a patient in order to arrive at a diagnosis. See abstract, page 4, paragraphs [0041]-[0044] and figures 13-16. The answer to one workflow question determines the next question. These are termed "prerequisite questions". See page 9, paragraph [0080]. It would have been obvious to a person of

Art Unit: 2176

ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention that a workflow process of Teng would comprise questions with dependencies to be asked because workflow processes often consist of workflow tasks to be performed and often require questions related to a condition to be asked in order to execute the next task and properly diagnose a problem. See pages 1-2 of Dahlin.

Regarding claim 12, Teng teaches a user defines the workflow process which comprises steps and phases. Teng does not teach the user specifies questions within the steps although he teaches the user defines the parameters within the steps. Dahlin discloses a workflow in which an interface is provided for asking a plurality of questions about a patient in order to arrive at a diagnosis. See abstract, page 4, paragraphs [0041]-[0044] and figures 13-16. It would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention that a workflow process of Teng would comprise questions to be asked because workflow processes often consist of workflow tasks to be performed and often require questions related to a condition to be asked in order to execute the next task and properly diagnose a problem. See pages 1-2 of Dahlin.

Regarding claim 15, Teng teaches generating a GUI but does not teach the computer displays are arranged into phases containing steps wherein the steps comprise one or more questions. Dahlin discloses a workflow in which an interface is provided for asking a plurality of questions about a patient in order to arrive at a

diagnosis. See abstract, page 4, paragraphs [0041]-[0044] and figures 13-16. It would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention that a workflow process of Teng would comprise questions to be asked because workflow processes often consist of workflow tasks to be performed and often require questions related to a condition to be asked in order to execute the next task and properly diagnose a problem. See pages 1-2 of Dahlin.

Regarding claim 16, Teng does not teach generating a new document from the information elicited in step (3); however, Dahlin teaches displaying medical diagnostic and treatment information to the user based on the health professional's choices throughout the workflow process. See pages 2, paragraph [0017]-page 3, paragraph [0026]. It would have been obvious to produce a document from the information received in a workflow process because workflow processes often consist of workflow tasks to be performed and often require questions related to a condition to be asked in order to execute the next task and properly diagnose a problem. See pages 1-2 of Dahlin.

Regarding claim 18, Teng teaches defining the parameters associated with the workflow process; however, Teng does not teach detecting a question associated with a phase or text. Dahlin discloses a workflow in which an interface is provided for asking a plurality of questions about a patient in order to arrive at a diagnosis. See abstract, page 4, paragraphs [0041]-[0044] and figures 13-16. It would have been obvious to a

Art Unit: 2176

person of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention that a workflow process of Teng would comprise questions to be asked because workflow processes often consist of workflow tasks to be performed and often require questions related to a condition to be asked in order to execute the next task and properly diagnose a problem. See pages 1-2 of Dahlin.

Regarding claim 21, Teng does not expressly state the workflow parameters comprise questions; however, workflows generally comprise questions as disclosed by Dahlin. Dahlin discloses a workflow in which an interface is provided for asking a plurality of questions about a patient in order to arrive at a diagnosis. See abstract, page 4, paragraphs [0041]-[0044] and figures 13-16. It would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention that a workflow process of Teng would comprise questions to be asked because workflow processes often consist of workflow tasks to be performed and often require questions related to a condition to be asked in order to execute the next task and properly diagnose a problem. See pages 1-2 of Dahlin.

Regarding claim 22, Teng does not teach the workflow process parameters comprise a user-specified order of a question to be asked during execution; however, workflows generally comprise questions as disclosed by Dahlin. Dahlin discloses a workflow in which an interface is provided for asking a plurality of questions about a patient in order to arrive at a diagnosis. See abstract, page 4, paragraphs [0041]-[0044]

Art Unit: 2176

and figures 13-16. It would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention that a workflow process of Teng would comprise questions to be asked because workflow processes often consist of workflow tasks to be performed and often require questions related to a condition to be asked in order to execute the next task and properly diagnose a problem. See pages 1-2 of Dahlin.

Regarding claim 23, Teng teaches a user defines the workflow process which comprises steps and phases. Teng does not teach the user specifies questions within the steps although he teaches the user defines the parameters within the steps. Dahlin discloses a workflow in which an interface is provided for asking a plurality of questions about a patient in order to arrive at a diagnosis. See abstract, page 4, paragraphs [0041]-[0044] and figures 13-16. It would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention that a workflow process of Teng would comprise questions to be asked because workflow processes often consist of workflow tasks to be performed and often require questions related to a condition to be asked in order to execute the next task and properly diagnose a problem. See pages 1-2 of Dahlin.

Regarding claim 24, Teng teaches a user can define the workflow parameters using a template. See page 14, paragraph [0187].

Regarding claim 25, Teng teaches defining the workflow parameters for a workflow process using a template.

Regarding claim 26, Teng does not disclose a user specifying a question to be solicited during the workflow. Dahlin discloses a workflow in which an interface is provided for asking a plurality of questions about a patient in order to arrive at a diagnosis. See abstract, page 4, paragraphs [0041]-[0044] and figures 13-16. It would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention that a workflow process of Teng would comprise questions to be asked because workflow processes often consist of workflow tasks to be performed and often require questions related to a condition to be asked in order to execute the next task and properly diagnose a problem. See pages 1-2 of Dahlin.

Regarding claim 27, Teng discloses a template based workflow definition in which a template which can be a text document is used to define a workflow which meets the limitation, ***a computer-assisted process for converting a contract text document into a workflow process***. See page 1, paragraph [0014] and page 15, paragraph [0187].

Teng teaches the template can be created using a word processor (i.e. text document). The template defines a set of parameters for actions available to various workflow types to create a customized workflow. See page 1, paragraphs [0014]-[0015]. Specifically, Teng teaches a template is created and stored using a word

processor. Teng teaches the systems reads the templates and determines which actions can be added to a GUI. The system then receives a selection of the attributes and types from the user which is used to form a GUI which meets the limitation, ***displaying the contract text document on a computer screen; detecting user-selected text portions of the text document on the computer screen; detecting user-selected options for associating each user-selected text portion with a plurality of workflow process parameters including at least an indication of when information corresponding to the user-selected text portion will be solicited during the workflow process and an indication of how information corresponding to the user-selected text portion will be solicited during the workflow process.*** See page 15, paragraphs [0187]-[0193].

Teng teaches the actions selected by the user in the XML document are added to a Graphical User Interface. The appropriate attributes and types of attributes are added to the GUI based on the template definition. The GUI is used to represent the flow of the workflow and any subflows represented by the XML document and results in a workflow definition that can be stored and later used to participate in or to start a workflow which meets the limitation, ***generating a template comprising a data structure that contains portions of the text document and the associations detected in step (3).*** See page 15, paragraphs [0187]-[0195].

Teng does not expressly teach ***user-selected text portions of a document.*** It was well known in the art at the time of the invention to select a portion of a document. Teng teaches selecting an entire document for conversion into a data structure. It

Art Unit: 2176

would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to substitute the known method of selecting a portion of a document with Teng's method of selecting the entire document in order to achieve the predictable result of selecting a portion of the document for conversion into a data structure.

Teng does not teach executing the workflow process by generating prompts to solicit information and detecting responses to the prompts and generating a text document reflecting information entered in response to the prompts. However, Dahlin teaches prompting a user to solicit information regarding patient conditions and presenting a diagnosis of the patient based on the responses. See figures 13-16, page 4, paragraphs [0041]-[0044]. Dahlin teaches displaying medical diagnostic and treatment information to the user based on the health professional's choices throughout the workflow process. See pages 2, paragraph [0017]-page 3, paragraph [0026]. It would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to incorporate the teachings of Dahlin in Teng's system because workflow processes often consist of workflow tasks to be performed and often require questions related to a condition to be asked in order to execute the next task and properly diagnose a problem. See pages 1-2 of Dahlin.

Regarding claim 28, Teng teaches the template can be an XML document that defines a set of parameters for each of the actions available to the particular workflow. See page 14, paragraph [0184].

Regarding claim 29, Teng does not teach generating computer displays partitioned into distinct phases comprised of steps where the steps comprise questions. However, Dahlin teaches prompting a user to solicit information regarding patient conditions and presenting a diagnosis of the patient based on the responses. See figures 13-16, page 4, paragraphs [0041]-[0044]. Dahlin teaches displaying medical diagnostic and treatment information to the user based on the health professional's choices throughout the workflow process. See pages 2, paragraph [0017]-page 3, paragraph [0026]. It would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to incorporate the teachings of Dahlin in Teng's system because workflow processes often consist of workflow tasks to be performed and often require questions related to a condition to be asked in order to execute the next task and properly diagnose a problem. See pages 1-2 of Dahlin.

Regarding claim 30, Teng does not teach generating computer displays partitioned into distinct phases comprised of steps where the steps comprise questions. However, Dahlin teaches prompting a user to solicit information regarding patient conditions and presenting a diagnosis of the patient based on the responses. See figures 13-16, page 4, paragraphs [0041]-[0044]. Dahlin teaches displaying medical diagnostic and treatment information to the user based on the health professional's choices throughout the workflow process. See pages 2, paragraph [0017]-page 3, paragraph [0026]. It would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to incorporate the teachings of Dahlin in Teng's system

Art Unit: 2176

because workflow processes often consist of workflow tasks to be performed and often require questions related to a condition to be asked in order to execute the next task and properly diagnose a problem. See pages 1-2 of Dahlin.

Regarding claim 32, Teng does not teach generating computer displays partitioned into distinct phases comprised of steps where the steps comprise questions. However, Dahlin teaches prompting a user to solicit information regarding patient conditions and presenting a diagnosis of the patient based on the responses. See figures 13-16, page 4, paragraphs [0041]-[0044]. Dahlin teaches displaying medical diagnostic and treatment information to the user based on the health professional's choices throughout the workflow process. See pages 2, paragraph [0017]-page 3, paragraph [0026]. It would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to incorporate the teachings of Dahlin in Teng's system because workflow processes often consist of workflow tasks to be performed and often require questions related to a condition to be asked in order to execute the next task and properly diagnose a problem. See pages 1-2 of Dahlin.

Regarding claim 33, Teng discloses a template based workflow definition in which a template which can be a text document is used to define a workflow which meets the limitation, ***a system for deconstructing a contract document into a workflow process***. See page 1, paragraph [0014] and page 15, paragraph [0187].

Teng teaches the template can be created using a word processor (i.e. text document). The template defines a set of parameters for actions available to various workflow types to create a customized workflow. See page 1, paragraphs [0014]-[0015]. Specifically, Teng teaches a template is created and stored using a word processor. Teng teaches the systems reads the templates and determines which actions can be added to a GUI. The system then receives a selection of the attributes and types from the user which is used to form a GUI which meets the limitation, **a document editing tool that permits a user to select text portions of the contract document and to associate with each text portion one or more workflow process parameters that determine a sequence or content of one aspect of the workflow process.** See page 15, paragraphs [0187]-[0193].

Teng teaches the actions selected by the user in the XML document are added to a Graphical User Interface. The appropriate attributes and types of attributes are added to the GUI based on the template definition. The GUI is used to represent the flow of the workflow and any subflows represented by the XML document which meets the limitation, **a document generator that converts the selected text portions and associated workflow process parameters into a template comprising a data structure that represents an ordered sequencing of the workflow process.** See page 15, paragraphs [0187]-[0195].

Teng does not expressly teach **user-selected text portions of a document.** It was well known in the art at the time of the invention to select a portion of a document. Teng teaches selecting an entire document for conversion into a data structure. It

would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to substitute the known method of selecting a portion of a document with Teng's method of selecting the entire document in order to achieve the predictable result of selecting a portion of the document for conversion into a data structure.

Teng does not teach generating computer displays that prompt a user to enter information using one or more workflow process parameters. However, Dahlin teaches prompting a user to solicit information regarding patient conditions and presenting a diagnosis of the patient based on the responses. See figures 13-16, page 4, paragraphs [0041]-[0044]. Dahlin teaches displaying medical diagnostic and treatment information to the user based on the health professional's choices throughout the workflow process. See pages 2, paragraph [0017]-page 3, paragraph [0026].

It would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to incorporate the teachings of Dahlin in Teng's system because workflow processes often consist of workflow tasks to be performed and often require questions related to a condition to be asked in order to execute the next task and properly diagnose a problem. See pages 1-2 of Dahlin.

Regarding claim 35, Teng does not expressly state the workflow process comprises a *transaction negotiation process*; however, Teng teaches organizations and businesses require various pre-defined business methods to carry out various tasks that are commonly used in their business practices. In order to implement various business methods, workflows have been implemented to automate those business

Art Unit: 2176

methods. This could include transaction negotiation because it was a commonly used business task utilized by organizations. Thus it would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to create a workflow process comprising a transaction negotiation process because it was desirable at the time of the invention to automate commonly used tasks by businesses by creating a custom workflow that supported the organization's business practices and tasks. See page 1, paragraph [0010]-[0015].

Regarding claim 37, Teng teaches organizations and businesses require various pre-defined business methods to carry out various tasks that are commonly used in their business practices. In order to implement various business methods, workflows have been implemented to automate those business methods. This includes transaction negotiation as it was a commonly used business task utilized by organizations. See page 1, paragraph [0010]-[0015].

Allowable Subject Matter

8. Claim 19 would be allowable if rewritten to overcome the rejection(s) under 35 U.S.C. 112, first paragraph, set forth in this Office action and to include all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

Response to Arguments

9. Applicant's arguments filed 10/26/07 have been fully considered but they are not persuasive.

The rejections under 35 U.S.C. 112 have been withdrawn pursuant to Applicant's amendments.

On page 9 of the Remarks/Arguments, Applicant argues Teng describes a workflow process based on a template but does not describe how the template is created. Applicant argues the claimed invention is drawn to a process for automatically creating the template in the first place which is then used to drive the workflow process. Examiner disagrees. Teng does teach creating the template from a word processing document. While Applicant continues to argue there is no suggestion of reverse engineering of documents to create a workflow template, Examiner maintains that Teng also creates a workflow template from a text document. Teng teaches a template controls and defines a workflow definition process. In one embodiment, the document is an XML file that defines a set of parameters for each of the actions available to a particular workflow type. See page 14, paragraph [0184]. This template can be created using a word processor where a user defines the workflow. The template is then used to create a GUI (data structure) representing the ordering of information to be elicited when the workflow process is executed.

Applicant argues claims 20, 27, 31, and 33 are allowable for the same reasons as claim 1. The Office maintains the rejections for these claims in light of the comments above.

On page 10, with respect to claim 7, Applicant argues neither Teng nor Dahlin teaches user-selected creation of a question to be asked. Applicant argues at best, Dahlin teaches asking a pre-existing question. Examiner respectfully disagrees. Dahlin teaches the interface provides a plurality of questions to be asked or entered about a patient. Entering a question about the patient is creating a question to be asked. See page 2, paragraph [0017] of Dahlin.

With respect to claim 8, Applicant argues neither Teng nor Dahlin teaches user-selected valid responses for a question. Applicant argues at best, Dahlin describes pre-existing valid responses from which a user must choose. Examiner respectfully disagrees with Applicant's rationale. The user selection of a *pre-existing* valid response is still a user-selected valid response for a question. See page 4, paragraphs [0041]-[0044] and figures 13-16 of Dahlin.

In view of the comments above, the rejections are maintained.


Conclusion

10. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Rachna Singh whose telephone number is 571-272-4099. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F (8:30AM-6:00PM). If attempts to

Art Unit: 2176

reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Doug Hutton can be reached on 571-272-4137. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).



Rachna Singh
01/03/07